

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of organizing a plurality of images in a predetermined page format, comprising the steps of:
grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts;
analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a predetermined criteria; and
selecting the page layout based on said predetermined criteria.
 2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising placing said plurality of images in said selected page layout.
 3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria comprises the amount of white space in each of said page layouts.
 - 50327 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said analyzing said different page layouts comprises scoring each of said different page layouts.
 5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of further scaling the images of said selected page layout by different amounts.
 6. A method according to claim 3 wherein the amount of white space is minimized by using stochastic algorithms.
 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria includes placing images in said different page layouts in a non-overlapping pattern.
 8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said placing of said plurality of images in said different page layouts comprises scaling all of said images such that they fit within said page format.

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein said analyzing of said different page layouts comprises a iteration of comparing sequentially two different page layouts and selecting the best page layout until little or no further improvement in scoring is obtained.

10. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of scaling individual images of the page layout obtained after said iteration.

11. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of rotating said images a predetermined amount.

12. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of spatially balancing the spacing between said images.

13. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of positioning said images in said selected page layout so as to provide a desired border on said page.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined vertically between adjacent images in said page layouts.

15. A method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined horizontally between adjacent images in said page layouts.

16. System for organizing a plurality of images in a predetermined format, comprising:

a first computer for composing a plurality of digital image on a page;

a software program such that when loaded on said computer will causes said computer to group said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a predetermined criteria; and

selecting the page layout based on said predetermined criteria.

17. A system according to claim 16 where in said computer can be accessed remotely over a communication network.

18. A system according to claim 17 said computer is accessed by a second computer.

19. A system according to claim 18 wherein said software program is run on said first computer.

20. A system according to claim 18 wherein said second computer is personal computer of a customer.

21. A system according to claim 17 said computer is accessed by a retail kiosk.

22. A computer software product for organizing a plurality of images in a predetermined format comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to perform the following steps:

grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a predetermined criteria; and

selecting the page layout based on said predetermined criteria.

23. A method of organizing a plurality of images in a predetermined page format, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of digital images;

selecting a number of said images for placement on said
predetermined format;
grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page
layouts;
analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a
predetermined criteria; and
selecting the page layout based on said predetermined criteria.

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